



EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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Workers Complete Y-12's Largest Recovery Act Project Ahead of Schedule

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. – The Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) recently celebrated the early completion of its largest Recovery Act-funded project, emptying all legacy material from Alpha 5. The cleanout of the 613,000-square-foot facility was completed at a cost of about \$100 million one month ahead of schedule.

Built in 1944, Alpha 5 is the largest building at Y-12, and was formerly used for uranium separation activities. With cleanout complete, Oak Ridge's Environmental Management (EM) program plans to demolish the structure to reduce the site's footprint and to gain access to previously unreachable mercury sources in the soil that need to be removed.

A key to the project's accelerated completion was a modified approach for sorting and removing legacy waste from the facility. Custom boxes were built and deployed to gather similar forms of waste, eliminating any redundancies during the sorting process and shortening waste compliance assessments. With the new "box approach," materials could also be moved mechanically rather than manually, requiring less handling and improving worker safety.

“Alpha 5's completion is evidence of the continuing environmental clean-up progress that we are making at Y-12 through Recovery Act funding.”

Ted Sherry, Y-12 Site Office Manager for the National Nuclear Security Administration

“Give credit to these men and women for finding innovative ways to accomplish work using a faster and safer method,” said John Eschenberg, Deputy Manager and Assistant Manager for EM for the Oak Ridge Office. “Our project managers emphasize the value of employees taking the initiative to find better ways of completing cleanup, which is major reason Oak Ridge has a number of under-budget, ahead-of-schedule Recovery Act projects.”

The Alpha 5 cleanout is one of seven projects at Y-12 to clean up from the Manhattan Project and the Cold War that together are funded by \$216 million from the Recovery Act. Y-12 Recovery Act crews have completed six demolition projects, including four Biology Complex facilities and other buildings, reducing Y-12's footprint by more than 150,000 square feet. Workers also cleared out the Old Salvage Yard, a seven-acre area of old, contaminated scrap metal.



Top photo: Workers fill and inspect boxes for loading into a super sack to transport for disposal.

Bottom Left, Middle: These photos show the 613,000-square-foot Alpha 5 facility before and after a Recovery Act-funded cleanout.

Bottom right: An aerial photo shows the Alpha 5 facility, where Y-12's largest Recovery Act-funded project was completed ahead of schedule.